

REMARKS

Claims 6-14 have been examined, and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has indicated that Applicant's request for reconsideration of finality of the March 24, 2004 Office Action is persuasive. Accordingly, the finality has been withdrawn and the current Office Action is a Non-Final Office Action.

Also, in the March 24, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 6 and 7 were allowed and claims 8-12 contained allowable subject matter. Accordingly, in the August 3, 2004 Amendment, Applicant rewrote claims 8-12 into independent form. In the current Office Action, however, the Examiner has rejected all pending claims 6-14 in view of a newly cited reference. Accordingly, the Examiner currently maintains that there is no allowable subject matter.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,166,826 to Yokoyama ("Yokoyama").

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated over Yokoyama.

A. Claim 6

Applicant submits that claim 6 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 6 recites that the image data stored in the second memory section is provided with delete preventing data.

The Examiner maintains that col. 1, lines 7-54 of Yokoyama discloses the above feature (pg. 6 of Office Action). However, the cited portion fails to teach or suggest that the print data (i.e., claimed image data) in the storage unit 37 (i.e., claimed second memory section) of Yokoyama is ever provided with delete preventing data. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 6 is patentable over the cited reference.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to specifically indicate, if the rejection is to be maintained, which portion of col. 1, lines 7-54 discloses the claimed feature.

B. Claims 7-12

Since claims 7-12 contain features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 6, Applicant submits that claims 7-12 are patentable for at least analogous reasons as presented above.

C. Claims 13 and 14

Since claims 13 and 14 are dependent upon one of claims 6 or 7, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/533,107

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

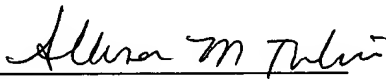
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